FOREST RESEARCH

"Enhancing the Forest Sector's contribution to equal access for disabled people to recreation goods, facilities and services in Scottish Forests"

Task 3
Collation and Review of Guidance, Tools and Case Studies of Good Practice

March 2007

Prepared for Forestry Commission Scotland

By

OPENspace: The research centre for inclusive access to outdoor environments

Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot-Watt University
Lauriston Place
Edinburgh EH3 9DF
Tel: 0131 221 6177
Fax: 0131 221 6157
OPENspace@eca.ac.uk

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1.0 Introduction

This task is divided into two: a desk study using internet search engines and other means of uncovering the guidance, tools and examples of best practice; and some site visits to key forest recreation sites and possibly some other countryside sites around Scotland for illustrating the issues involved. The desk study is also divided into two sections: one focusing on guidance and tools and the other one on examples of best practice.

2.0 Review of Guidance and Tools

For the review of guidance and tools, we carried out an internet search looking for relevant studies, guidelines and toolkits not only around UK but also from abroad. In addition, there were a number of materials already known to the researchers.

Title of Input: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments

Type of Input: Toolkit

Publisher/Funding Organisation: US Department of Justice

Geographical Location of Input: USA

Date of Publication: December 2006/February 2007

Summary: The Toolkit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services, and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access.

Contact Details: http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm

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Title of Input: Country Park Practitioner Guidance

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: County Parks Network

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: March 2004

Summary: General guidance on managing accessible country parks.
Contact Details: www.countryparks.org.uk

Title of Input: Urban Fringe Toolkit – Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Type of Input: Toolkit

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Countryside Agency

Geographical Location of Input: UK (England**)**

Date of Publication: November 2007

Summary: Local rights of way can help to provide a convenient means of travelling, especially for short journeys, as well as offering opportunities for informal recreation and exercise on a daily basis, and a means of reaching local facilities and services. In many areas local rights of way help to boost tourism and contribute to the local rural economy. Encouraging use of the ROW network has the potential to reduced dependency on private car use

Contact Details:
http://www.countryside.gov.uk/Images/TOOLKIT%206B_tcm2-30321.pdf
(downloadable file)

Title of Input: The Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP)

Type of Input: Toolkit (Performing Training Assessments/Training Trail Assessment Coordinators)

Publisher/Funding Organisation: United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)

Geographical Location of Input: USA

Date of Publication: June 1993

Summary: A universal mapping system to communicate detailed and pertinent information about individual trails. The information was designed to be useful to anyone who might want to hike a trail, regardless of their hiking ability.

Beneficial Designs identified trail characteristics that would allow hikers of all abilities to decide whether to undertake a particular trail and make necessary safety or equipment preparations beforehand. These characteristics include trail grade, cross slope, width, surface firmness, and the presence of obstacles. The dimensions and locations of obstacles such as tree roots, boulders or large rocks, water crossings, ruts, vertical obstructions, steps, dangerous plants, and drop-offs were noted.

Contact Details: http://www.beneficialdesigns.com/trails/utap.html

Title of Input: Evaluation Framework for Projects to Increase Access to the Countryside

Type of Input: Guidance - Evaluation

Publisher/Funding Organisation: OPENspace for Countryside Agency

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: 2004

Summary: OPENspace were commissioned to contribute to the development of an evaluation framework for projects aimed at increasing the diversity of visitors to the countryside. This was prepared for the Countryside Agency, as part of their Wider Welcome programme, in collaboration with ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd. Guidance on the evaluation framework has been tested with Wider Welcome projects in 2004.

Contact Details: www.openspace.eca.ac.uk

Title of Input: Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide

Type of Input: Guidance – Design Guidelines

Publisher/Funding Organisation: PLAE Inc – USDA Forest Service

Geographical Location of Input: USA (and worldwide)

Date of Publication: 1993

Summary: This book provides a framework for determining the appropriate level of accessibility in a range of outdoor recreation settings and presents detailed guidelines for designing the elements and spaces necessary for ensuring accessible paths, signs, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic tables, tent pads, and much more.

Contact Details: PLAE Inc. of Berkeley, California

MIG Communications, 1802 Fifth Street, Berkeley, California

Title of Input: Outdoors for All? Draft Diversity Action Plan

Type of Input: Consultation Document

Publisher/Funding Organisation: DEFRA

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: May 2006

Summary: Between 2002 and 2005 the Countryside Agency carried out a Diversity Review. The purpose of the review was to gather robust evidence about the needs of groups who are under-represented amongst visitors to the countryside, and the awareness of those needs by providers of recreational activities. As a result of this a draft Action Plan was drawn, the objective of which was to increase the number of people from under-represented groups who take part in outdoor recreation, and increase their knowledge of where they can go and what they can do when they get there.

Eight areas have been identified where action is required either by Defra, its 'family' of Agencies (especially Natural England), other Government Departments and Agencies, Local Authorities, or other bodies. These are:

- **Training and guidance** – investing in improving skills of recreation providers resulting in better delivery;
- **Forums and networks** – sharing good practice on improving delivery;
- **Plans and strategies** – influencing a range of plans, including for example, local transport plans and rights of way improvement plans;
- **Information and marketing** – key to raising awareness and confidence;
- **Research** – needed to test different approaches;
- **Funding** – to facilitate some of the above actions, particularly, initial contact with what the natural environment has to offer;
- **Service planning and performance measures** – to monitor progress;
- **Championing, governance and regulation** – creating a focus for action.

Contact Details: http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/cd-gpg2005.htm

Title of Input: Practice Guide to Disabled People's Access to the Countryside

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: The Fieldfare Trust

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: 2005 (publication of CD-ROM version)

Summary: The Fieldfare Trust has now produced a new 'Countryside for All Good Practice Guide' CD-ROM which has extended the scope of this CD by adding new sections. Additional information for countryside access managers is provided in new guidelines on how to achieve least restrictive access, how to deliver accessible countryside path networks and how to survey and audit paths in relation to the needs of disabled people. Guidance on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for countryside service providers is also provided.

The Accessibility Standards remain a bench mark for good practice in meeting the needs of disabled people seeking access to the countryside. The standards provide a way for countryside access managers to develop and manage accessible paths in all countryside environments. The guidelines can support good practice in a wide range of other services for disabled countryside visitors.

Contact Details: http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/cd-gpg2005.htm

Title of Input: Access for the Disabled

Type of Input: Guidance - website

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Countryside Access

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: October 2005

Summary: This website outlines the responsibilities of different authorities for providing access to the outdoors for disabled people.

Contact Details:
http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/access_for_the_disabled

Title of Input: By All Reasonable Means: Inclusive access to the outdoors for disabled people

Type of Input: Guidance – good practice guidelines

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Countryside Agency

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: October 2005

Summary: It aims to provide clear and detailed advice for countryside managers on how to improve access opportunities for disabled people. The document guides land managers, land owners and others, through a process for working more closely with disabled people - actively including disabled people in these processes.

Although it acknowledges the resource limitations that many access providers and land owners face, it aims to provide a realistic, practical and effective approach to encouraging more action by providers, resulting in more access in more places for more people.

The guidance is a live document that will be updated in the light of experience and the case law which develops from the Disability Discrimation Act 1995 (DDA) and other associated legislation.

This guide is designed to help countryside and urban greenspace managers and landowners improve accessibility of their sites, routes and facilities. It focuses on work with and for disabled people, but with the understanding that many access improvements will benefit all visitors.

The framework for action in this guide is appropriate for most types of outdoor space open to the public including:
• Country and urban parks and green spaces
• Long distance and other trails, paths and rights-of-way
• The wider countryside, including open access land.

Contact Details:
http://www.countryside.gov.uk/Publications/articles/Publication_tcm2-27720.asp

(downloadable file)

Title of Input: Easy Access to Historic Landscapes

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Sensory Trust

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: October 2005

Summary: The Sensory Trust has produced guidelines for making historic landscapes easily accessible for visitors with disabilities. The publication 'Easy Access to Historic Landscapes' was launched in the grounds of English Heritage property Witley Court on 10th of October 2005.

'Easy Access to Historic Landscapes' was commissioned by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to help the owners and managers of sites such as historic parks, gardens, cemeteries and urban squares to provide easy, dignified access for all visitors. It focuses on creating a better visitor experience, but also aims to help improve the skills of staff and volunteers and help conserve a site's special historic interest. The publication includes a CD ROM of the Witley Court access project.

Contact Details: http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/

Title of Input: Sensory Rich Trails

Type of Input: Design framework

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Sensory Trust

Geographical Location of Input: Victotria, Australia

Date of Publication: 2006

Summary: Sensory Trust has contributed the Sensory Mapping technique and the Access Chain concept to a new guide for the design of sensory-rich trails in Australia. From the introduction: 'Sensory-rich trails – a design framework' is intended to work alongside existing trail designs and extend concepts to create a space that better connects people to their environment. The framework assesses what the environment has to offer the following four senses; touch, sound, sight and smell. This is achieved consciously with the use of signs, or unconsciously by listening to the trees blowing in the wind or smelling the scents in the air.

People's individual needs and expectations are the focus of sensory-rich trail design, including people of all abilities, people of different ages and people from different cultural backgrounds.

Contact Details: http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/

Title of Input: Making Connections: A guide to accessible green space

Type of Input: Guide

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Sensory Trust

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: 2006

Summary: The Sensory Trust have published a book, *Making Connections* which aims to help greenspace designers and managers find effective ways of opening up their sites to a wider audience.

The book combines survey results with existing literature and examples of good practice in a variety of greenspace sites. It covers issues such as

- how information and interpretation are best provided
- what motivates people to visit sites
- how people can be encouraged to use and get involved in sites
- relevant legislation and policy
- aspects relating to site layout.
- Making Connections is all to do with the connection between people and the natural world, and making sure that the benefits of this contact are available to everyone, regardless of disability, age or background.

Contact Details: http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/

Title of Input: Evaluation Toolbox

Type of Input: Toolkit

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Sensory Trust

Geographical Location of Input: UK (Kent County Council and Sheffield City Council)

Date of Publication: 2006

Summary: This toolbox is being developed to support the inclusive design and management of green space. The aim is to create a flexible and practical tool to be used by managers, planners and designers of public green space. It is intended to help with key decisions involved in planning new developments, or initiating improvements to existing sites. Key projects within the toolkit are with Kent County Council and Sheffield City Council.

Contact Details: http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/

Title of Input: The VIEW Toolkit

Type of Input: Toolkit

Publisher/Funding Organisation: OPENspace

Geographical Location of Input: UK (Durham Heritage Coast)

Date of Publication: 2005

Summary: OPENspace conducted a wayfinding survey along the Durham Heritage Coast. The study carried out a base audit survey of road and footpath signs, and provided some strategic assessment of need. Using the 'VIEW' toolkit - OPENspace's own proprietary methodology for assessing visitor information and wayfinding needs - role play and behavioural observation was used to examine aspects of the visitor wayfinding experience along the Coast. This included evaluation of landscape design performance at 'gateway' arrival points. The research contract comprised a first phase of a programme of works for 'WAVE' (Wayfinding Around a Valued Environment) - an initiative set up to evaluate access and recreational use of the Durham Heritage Coast.

Contact Details: www.openspace.eca.ac.uk

Title of Input: Deaf People's Access to the Countyside

Type of Input: Guidelines for good practice

Publisher/Funding Organisation: OPENspace – Joint Mobility Unit for Scottish Natural Heritage

Geographical Location of Input: UK

Date of Publication: 2004

Summary: A team of researchers from OPENspace, in collaboration with the Joint Mobility Unit, were awarded a contract from Scottish Natural Heritage to explore issues of Deaf Access to the countryside. The project is examining current provision for deaf visitors to the countryside, as well as the needs, attitudes and preferences of deaf people in accessing and enjoying the countryside. Examples of good practice from both the UK and abroad are being considered and recommendations made for improving current provision.

Contact Details: www.openspace.eca.ac.uk

Title of Input: Ayrshire Outdoor Access Toolkit

Type of Input: Toolkit

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Paths for All Partnership

Geographical Location of Input: Scotland (Ayrshire)

Date of Publication: 2006 (ready by 2008)

Summary: The toolkit was developed with funding support from Scottish Natural Heritage and Paths for All Partnership (PFAP) and takes the form of a box containing:

- An instruction leaflet on how to use the toolkit

- Maps (1:30,000 scale for the whole of North and East Ayrshire and 1:10,000 scale for all settlements)

- A copy of the SNH and PFAP Core Paths Plan Good Practice Guidance

- A copy of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

- Path questionnaires

- Access usage questionnaires

- Two boxes of coloured pens

- A CD with PDF copies of the Code, Guidance, Access Strategies, and electronic versions of the questionnaires and maps

- A copy of the Executive Summary leaflet for each of the Ayrshire Authorities' Access Strategies

- Local path network leaflets

There are four main parts to completing the toolkit:

- Identifying the routes currently used by highlighting them on the maps with the blue pens

- Completing a short path questionnaire for each route identified, which gives information on the condition of each route

- Identifying potential new paths and linkages using the red pens

- Completing an access usage questionnaire giving information where the respondent is from, where they use paths, and what they use those paths for.

Contact Details:
http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/outdooraccess/projects_ayrshire_toolkit.asp

Title of Input: Outdoor Access Strategies: A Guide to Good Practice

Type of Input: Guidance for good practice

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Paths for All Partnership

Geographical Location of Input: Scotland

Date of Publication: 2004

Summary: This 34-page guide is intended for those who are involved in preparing or reviewing an outdoor access strategy.

Contact Details:
http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/cms_uploads/OutdoorAccessStratGuidefinalJuly04_1.pdf

(downloadable file)

Title of Input: Managing Access: Guidance for Owners and Managers of Land

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Paths for All Partnership

Geographical Location of Input: Scotland

Date of Publication: 2004

Summary: This guidance manual has been produced by the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association. It provides land managers with information and advice on all aspects of managing outdoor access. The Paths for All Partnership provided funding support to produce the document.

Contact Details:
http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/cms_uploads/ManagingAccessnoprintversion.pdf

(downloadable file)

Title of Input: Built for All Toolkit

Type of Input: Toolkit - guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: European Union

Geographical Location of Input: EU

Date of Publication: November 2006

Summary: Toolkit for the *Built For All* project was publicly launched in Strasbourg on 15 November 2006 with participation of the EP Intergroups on Ageing, Disability and Urban Housing.

Build For All is a pilot project supported by the European Commission aimed at mainstreaming disability and promoting accessibility to the built environment through the implementation of Design for All. The project provides guidance to public authorities in the establishment of essential accessibility criteria as provided for by the EU Public Procurement legislation. It aims to bring together representatives of disability and older people's organizations, authorities, the construction industry, lift manufacturers and architects – in order to promote and create lasting and ongoing dialogue.
Practical information about the launch can be obtained from the Disability Intergroup Secretariat.

Contact Details: http://www.build-for-all.net/en/activities/

Title of Input: Accessible Trails

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: National Center on Accessibility

Geographical Location of Input: USA

Date of Publication: 2002

Summary: Guidelines to create and manage accessible trails in national parks in USA.

Contact Details: www.ncaonline.org

Title of Input: Access to the Forests for Disabled People

Type of Input: Toolkit – Manual

Publisher/Funding Organisation: Swedish National Board of Forestry

Geographical Location of Input: Sweden

Date of Publication: March 2005

Summary: This manual is aimed at professional foresters and managers of woodlands, in particular of urban woodlands. The aim is to provide some good advice regarding increased accessibility for people with disabilities. The manual can also provide information and generate a more general understanding of what it means to live with a disability and also live a normal and active life.

The manual mostly focuses on the needs of people with physical disabilities and impaired vision, and to some extent on those with other disabilities such as learning disabilities and allergies.

The manual has been compiled as part of the EU-financed Swedish-French LIFE project "Urban Woods for People".

Contact Details: http://www.svo.se/forlag/rapporter/1678.pdf

(downloadable file)

Title of Input: Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails

Type of Input: Guidance

Publisher/Funding Organisation: USDA Forest Service, Technology and Development

Geographical Location of Input: USA

Date of Publication: 2006

Summary: This guidebook is intended to help designers and recreation professionals apply the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) and Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG). These guidelines only apply on National Forest System lands. While they are official policy only for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, they contain useful concepts to help other agencies and organizations develop accessible outdoor recreation and accessible trails.

Contact Details:
http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/htmlpubs/htm06232801/page21.htm

3.0 Best Practice Review

The purpose of the practice review was to source examples of innovative practice amongst organisations facilitating access to the countryside for the disabled either through the provision of good information pre and post visit, signage, or in the design of easy access trails.   The Forums provided a starting point for the review pinpointing good examples known to people with a disability, together with in-house knowledge from OPENspace. Good practice suggestions were requested from Access, Forest and Recreation Managers and Landowners as part of the questionnaire and this information is summarised below Over 50 requests for information were made however response rates were low.   15 case studies are included below with some additional information and web links provided in section 3.3. Whilst the review focused on good practice in Scotland, several examples from England are also included.

Whilst undertaking the review several trends emerged in discussion with land agents and managers on the phone when they were contacted for more information:

- Staff did not necessarily appreciate that a site, whilst recommended by a disabled person at the Forum for inclusion, was of value to disabled users. This suggests a need for increased awareness amongst land agents/managers as to what the requirements of disabled users are, enabling increased promotion of these sites amongst disabled users.
- Only two sites mentioned carrying out audits with local disability access groups (Glasgow City Health Walks, Glencoe Lochan, Mabie Forest in hand).   Whilst it's possible other sites have been audited it was not mentioned in the material submitted and generally much of the information gathered is anecdotal.
- Lack of maintenance emerged as a problem on some sites which may have been considered exemplary in the past but are now falling below disability standards.
- All ability trails for those with a physical disability feature most prominently in the case studies submitted.   There were very few examples of innovative practice in relation to improving access for those with a visual or hearing impairment or learning difficulties.

3.1 Provision of Good Access

Location: Glasgow City Health Walks

Recommended by: Hamilton Park Forum

Summary: Seven easy access walks across the city, also offered as Park Ranger-led Health Walks: Drumchapel Woods, Bellahouston Park, Glasgow Green, Kelvingrove Park, Kings Park, Queens Park, Springburn Park and Tollcross Park. All of these walks have parts suitable for wheelchair access, and five of the parks have special signage in place directing users around the different routes. Routes are colour coded for difficulty and maps of the routes are available as a leaflet or electronically. In June 2005 the routes were audited for ease of use by people with a learning disability. This earmarked good features of the City Health Walks (including their relative ease of use), and areas for improvement (including the need for clear and easy to understand information).

Contact Details: Kevin.Hutchison@glasgow.gov.uk

Location: Glenmore Forest

Recommended by: Highland Disabled Ramblers

Summary: Two wheelchair scooters for hire (free of charge) plus two easy access routes especially waymarked in purple. A third route is planned
In Spring 2007.

Contact Details: jim.gilles@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Location: Abriachan Wood

Recommended by: Glenmore Forest Forum and one participant in the questionnaire

Summary: Abriachan Wood Trust has undertaken several initiatives in recent years to improve accessibility and interpretation for as wide a base as possible on a site that is anything but flat. Initiatives include 1400mm of easy access paths and boardwalks allowing visitors with mobility challenges to access a bird hide and pond dipping platform. The Trust has also installed innovative interpretation to increase the enjoyment of visitors including sound signage (rap about dragonfly life cycle, birdsongs, and another on native trees using children's voices).

Contact Details: www.abriachan.org.uk, email: JBarrAbr@aol.com

Location: Holmesyke Reedbed

Recommended by: Hamilton Park Forum

Summary: An easy access surface path easily negotiable by wheelchair and scooter users providing access around the Reedbed.

Contact Details: emma.stewart@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

More information available at www.forestry.gov.uk.

Location: Mabie and Dalbeatie Forest, Dumfries and Galloway

Recommended by: Dumfries and Galloway Forum and several participants in questionnaire

Summary
Dalbeatie Forest: an All Abilities Trail, one mile long, with resting points and benches en route. An extra wide boardwalk was constructed to give users easy access to the edge of Plantain Loch, where a viewing platform and benches are present. As part of an interpretation trail, a 'magnipost' provides an opportunity for people to magnify items of interest they find in the forest. A wind-up talking box provides narration on red squirrels and birdlife of the forest.

Mabie Forest: an All Abilities Trial, half a mile long, with benches and resting places. An easy access boardwalk allows users to access the forest pond and the route passes through a sensory garden. Currently exploring with less-abled users the possibility of producing specialist maps indicating potential obstacles and hazards.

Contact Details: robin.fuller@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Location: Anagach Woods, Granton-on-Spey

Recommended by: Glenmore Forest Forum and one participant in questionnaire

Summary: Contains a core network of tracks with no strenuous gradients or rough terrain. Paths are wide and generally in good condition, free draining on sand and gravel surfacing so little mud, and accessible by mobility carriages, robust wheelchairs and hand-pedalled trikes. There are no stiles and all barriers and gates allow access. Paths are waymarked green, blue and red. Proposals afoot to extend network of all ability paths to Kylintra Wood, a separate section also owned by the trust and in Anagach Wood itself.

Contact Details: www.anagachwoods.org.uk
anagachwoods@btconnect.com

Location: Glencoe Lochan, North Argyll

Recommended by: Fieldfare Trust

Summary: All Ability trails within the forest and to fishing locations indicated on visitor maps by the universal blue and white disabled access sign. The site features All Abilities fishing platforms and the resident row boat 'The Laird' is also available for hire and adapted for wheelchair users too. An independent review in 2005 by a local Disability Action Group has been useful in developing facilities on site.

Contact Details: Janie.steele@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Location: Ferrycroft/Ferry Wood, Lairg, Dornoch

Recommended by: Fieldfare Trust

Summary: Two All-Ability trails to 'Countryside For All' disability standards with good signage at the car park encouraging users to access the wood. A 'Dornoch Forest District' leaflet highlights other walks in the district which are also to the 'Countryside For All' disability standards including Borgie, Achany and Aldie Burn.

Contact Details: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
Email: dornoch.fd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Location: Queen Elizabeth Forest Park

Recommended by: Fieldfare Trust

Summary: An example of good car park signage providing information on easy access routes at David Marshall Lodge and also at Glenbranter Centre which has a purpose built an All Ability trail at Ritual Grove. Easy access routes are pointed with the standard blue and white wheelchair symbol on overall maps of the area.

Contact Details: Shirley.leek@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

3.2 Provision of Good Information

Location: Walks for All, Kent

Recommended by: Woodland Trust

Summary: 'Walks for All' comprises 16 walks in the Kent Countryside available in one of two packs or available electronically via the web. The graphic information on each walk is exceptional, conveying the type of surface, level of gradient and location of seats for each route enabling disabled users to make an informed choice about where to visit. This exemplary format is now being used by other organisations in England.

Contact Details: www.kent.gov/uk/explorekent

Location: Thames Path National Trail Online Information Project

Summary: Similar to the Kent 'Walk for All' initiative this project provides detailed information about 12 walks flagged as easy access, enabling visitors to make their own decisions as to whether they are able to negotiate sections of the Trail and associated routes.

Contact Details: www.nationaltrails.gov.uk/thamespathonline

See also www.nationaltrail.co.uk and the gradient profiles for Hadrian's Wall which categories sections of the walk as "easy walk", "suitable for wheelchairs" and "wheelchair access".

Location: Discover Eden Diversity Packs, Eden Project, Cornwall

Summary: As part of a 3 year project improving access through the development and dissemination of accessible information, the Sensory Trust have created new visitor information packs for the Eden Project in Easy English and Large Print as well as in different languages. New banners have also been produced as part of this project at the entrance/exit walkways into Eden. This project is on-going and will focus both on on-site and pre-visit information as well as developing new materials such as tactile maps and models of good practice for designers and managers.

Contact Details: www.sensorytrust.org.uk (see 'Discover' project).

Equal adventure

Recommended by: Hamilton Park Forum

Equal Adventure, based in Aviemore, promotes inclusion in sport and outdoor adventure, offering expeditions to remote locations for disabled and non-disabled people as well as offering training in inclusive practice and coaching for outdoor professionals in canoeing, kayaking, hill walking and multi-outdoor activities.

Contact: suresh@equaladventure.co.uk

Salcey Aerial Walkway, Northants Forest District

Summary: An All Ability 400 m long 'canopy' walkway through the treetops rising to 20 m in height with a 150 metre long ramp at ground level leading up to the main walk that can accommodate wheelchair users. The walkway incorporates a 20 metre high 'crow's nest' viewing platform and provides a unique aerial experience for disabled visitors.

Contact: www.forestry.gov.uk website or Forestry Commission Forest District Manager, Kevin Stannard,

3.3 Other recommended good practice examples

From participants at the Forums:

- Mersehead Reserve RSPB: www.rsbp.org.uk
- Threave Estate, Castle Douglas: All Ability path www.nts.org.uk
  (recent installation of flight of steps has blocked access to part of path) mentioned by several participants but information has not been forthcoming to date.
- Kingsmoor Park, Carlisle
- Falkirk Wheel: Antonne Wall www.antonineway.com and Rough Castle sections www.falkirk-wheel.com
- Crathie Opportunity Holidays www.crathieholidays.org.uk
- Centerparcs www.centerparcs.co.uk
- Brahan Estate, Conon Bridge www.seaforthestate.com

From participants in questionnaire including Access, Recreation and Forest Managers and Landowners.

- Falls of Clyde, New Lanark wildlife trust www.swt.org.uk/wildlife/fallsofclyde.asp
- The Crown Estate www.thecrownestate.co.uk including the Glenlivet Estate www.glenlivetestate.co.uk/ and Tomintoul www.tomintoul-glenlivet.org
- The work of the Seagull Trust in developing access to inland waterways www.seagulltrust.org.uk
- Mugdock Country Park www.mcp.ndo.co.uk
- Plean Country Park www.stirling.co.uk/attractions/pleancp.htm
- Blarbuie Woods, Lochgilphead and Woods For All www.reforestingscotland.org/projects/woods_for_all.php
- Cambus O'May Forest, Deeside www.visitdeeside.org.uk/what_to_do/walking-routes-cambus.htm
- Taynish, Lochgilphead, Argyll www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/designatedareas/nnrs/Taynish/taynish.asp
- Bennachie Centre, near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire www.forestry.gov.uk/website/wildwoods.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/ScotlandAberdeenshireNoForestBennachieTheBennachieCentreCarPark
- Quarrymill woodland park, Perthshire www.perthshire.co.uk/index.asp?pg=357
- Penfield ponds, Galloway Forest District www.visitsouthwestscotland.com/attractioninfo.asp?attractID=102
- Upper Deeside Access Trust www.visitdeeside.org.uk

67% of respondents to the questionnaire were unable to mention any specific sites. There was some overlap with sites recommended by disabled participants, notably Threave Estate, Glenmore, Mabie and Dalbeattie Forests, Arbriachan Woods, and Kingsmoor Park, Carlisle. These sites may therefore provide a good starting point for audit visits.

Recommended by Highland Disabled Ramblers www.highland-disabled-ramblers.org
- Path at Ardersier with picnic tables for disabled ramblers
- Path from Nairn towards Kings Steps at Nairn
- Tradespark Woods, Nairn
- Rothiemurchus Estate www.rothiemurchus.net
- Comrie Footpaths, Pitlochry Paths, Pitlochry Dunmore Woods: Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust www.pkc.gov.uk

Recommended by Disabled Ramblers, UK   www.disabledramblers.co.uk
- Black Mountains (Myndd Du Forest)
- Snowdonia National Park (Coed-y-Brenin)
- Alwen Reservoir